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UNCLAS LILONGWE 000402

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/PD, AF/S

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SUBJECT: ELECTION RESULTS TO BE BROADCAST LIVE

REF: A)03 Lilongwe 1202

1. Independent Capital Radio has devised a plan to broadcast May 18 election results live. In cooperation with Public Affairs Committee's (PAC) election monitors and funded by the British and Germans, Capital Radio will be on-air live from 6 pm on May 18 until 6 am on May 19 announcing results phoned in from PAC monitors. Listeners will also be able to call in with spot reports. Capital Radio will have a team of reporters at the central tally center reporting on events there.

2. Comment. If this initiative is allowed to go forward, election results will be broadcast live for the first time in Malawi's history. This would reduce the risk of rigging as vote e counts are collected at the district and national tally centers.

Browning